Dear Parents/Guardians:

            During the summer, I created a blog for our class—[pvroom121.blogspot.com/](http://www.pvroom121.blogspot.com/), which is a website where people from all over the world may view and comment. The purpose of the site is to:

* share with the world what we are learning in 5th grade through reflections, pictures, videos, and more
* provide an authentic audience for some of your child’s published work
* offer your child a chance to publish content to the internet

Sometimes the site will be updated daily, other times weekly. This site is not meant to replace your child’s agenda as a communication tool, only to enhance it.

This is a site that can be viewed by the general public. I believe allowing students to post to a public site allows them to publish for an authentic, real world audience. It also allows me to invite others, such as experts or other classes, to view and comment on material posted to the site. There are a number of considerations when working with a class website, so please review the information below with your child and sign in the designated areas indicating that you accept these terms.

In addition, there are times when your child’s work will be published to the site. For example, some days, one student will write a short summary of the events of that day. This will be done on a rotating basis. Other times, students will publish items such as stories or blog posts to the site. Please sign the second form indicating whether or not I have permission to publish your child’s work to the site.

Finally, there will be many times this year that I would like to post pictures, audio or videos to the site that include your child. Please sign the third form indicating whether or not I have permission to publish pictures or video that may include your child to the site. *Please note, however, if you choose to opt out of this section, your child will not be allowed to be in any class group pictures we take for the blog.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [scallen@spsmail.org](mailto:scallen@spsmail.org), or contact me on Twitter via @room121.

Thank you for your support; I look forward to a wonderful, exciting school year!

Sara Allen

**Blog Participation Considerations**

1. Your child will be supervised at all times at school when using the class blog. Please make sure that your child is supervised when visiting or posting to the website outside school hours.

2)   Your child will be choosing a blog nickname to be primarily identified with, but there may be times where his or her first name and/or initial and class number will be used. Due to safety concerns, the following information is NOT to be published to this website:

        last names

        school’s full name

        birthdates

        ages

        phone numbers or addresses

    any other identifying information

3) All information published to the site must be appropriate in nature for a fifth grade class. This includes site content and posts. Material that is profane, violent or otherwise inappropriate should not be posted. In addition, the message and tone of all additions to the website must be respectful. Hurtful posts will not be tolerated and will be immediately deleted if the issue arises.

4)      As this is a blog, parents and students will have the ability to post to the blog in the comments section. This is an area where you can write compliments, additional information, etc. This is not a good place to ask questions about your child, since comments can be viewed by the public. Please email me at scallen@spsmail.org or write a note in your child’s agenda if you need to get in touch with me.

5)      This blog is regularly monitored by me. The site through which I’ve set it up sends me updates about the posts. I not only have the ability to delete inappropriate posts, but I will also see the name of the person who added it. If you are concerned about a post, let me know. I will review it and take the necessary action. Any students who knowingly post material that is inappropriate or in violation of the class norms or district guidelines will lose their right to actively participate in our blog.

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**Skype and Twitter:**

In addition to our class blog, I would also like to incorporate Skype and Twitter throughout the year. We would use Skype to video chat with other classes in the world or video chat with special speakers worldwide. Currently, I am discussing a project with a science teacher in Florida, which would involve using Skype to connect our classes. My plan with Twitter mainly consists of students tweeting about what we are learning in class or tweeting about updates for upcoming events or important dates. In addition, as we gain more followers from other fifth grade classes, students may eventually reply to tweets from other classes—all educationally related, of course.

As with our class blog, identifying information will be withheld for both Skype and Twitter—with the exception of first names.

**Permission Slip #1**

Having read the above considerations and discussed them with my child, I,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ give permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to take part in blogging by reading posts, writing updates, making comments, and publishing his or her work to the blog. I understand that identifying information will be withheld, except for my child’s first name and/or first initial and class number.

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Parent signature                                                            Child signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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**Permission Slip #2**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ give permission for pictures, audio, and/or video containing my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to occasionally be published to the class blog. I understand that identifying information will be withheld, except for my child’s first name and/or first initial and class number.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                        \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature                                                            Child signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date

………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Permission Slip #3**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ give permission my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to participate in Skype class visits and make updates on our class Twitter account. I understand that identifying information will be withheld, except for my child’s first name and/or first initial and class number.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                        \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature                                                            Child signature

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Date